

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 142150Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4502

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652 - N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ES, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/SALVADOR: JIMINEZ CASTILLO ACCUSATIONS SPARK
DEBATE

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. JANUARY 9 PRESS CARRIES LENGTHY PAID AD BY DR JULIO EDUARDO JIMINEZ CASTILLO, A WELL RESPECTED ALBEIT AGING AND CONTROVERSIAL ATTORNEY, IN WHICH HE TAKES PRESIDENT MOLINA AND FONMIN BORGONOVO TO TASK FOR FOR NEGOTIATING THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL TERRITORY WITH HONDURAS. THE ANALYSIS, WHICH APPEALS OBLIQUELY AT LEAST TO THE MILITARY, CONTENDS THAT BORGONOVO VIOLATED THE CONSTITUTION WHEN HE SIGNED THE AUGUST 21 ACCORD WITH HONDURAS IN WHICH IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BOUNDARY ISSUE WOULD BE AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING THE MEXICO NEGOTIATIONS. JIMINEZ HOLDS THAT MOLINA AND BORGONOVO COULD BE TRIED FOR TREASON FOR AGREEING TO NEGOTIATIONS WHICH COULD END IN THE LOSS OF NATIONAL TERRITORY, THAT DLEVER HONDURAS DIPLOMACY TRAPPED THE GOES INTO DENOUNCING THE PACT OF BOGOTA AND THUS MAKING SALVADOR APPEAR BELLICOSE
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BEFORE WORLD OPINION, AND HINTS THAT INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS ON THE

SALVADORAN DELEGATION FAVORED CEDING SOME NATIONAL TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR ACCESS TO THE HONDURAN MARKET.

2. QUIERED ABOUT THE ARTICLE AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE JANUARY 10, PRESIDENT MOLINA DENIED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD EVER NEGOTIATED WITH HONDURAS ABOUT ANY PART OF THE NATIONAL TERRITORY AND REJECTED THE CHARGE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS VIOLATED THE CONSTITUTION. NVICE PRESIDENT MAYORGA RIVOS, NOTING THAT THE JIMINEZ ARTICLE COINCIDED WITH THE OPENING OF THE LEGISLATIVE/ MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, HINTED THAT UNIDENTIFIED POLITICAL INTERESTS HAD PROMPTED THE ACCUSATIONS. SEPARATELY, FONMIN BORGONOVO TOLD ME THAT HE WAS ALSO SUSPICIOUS OF POLITICAL MOTIVES THAT MIGHT LIE BEHIND THE JIMINEZ ATTACK, AND THAT SOMEONE MIGHT BE USING THE ISSUE TO ESPOUSE "GOLPISMO" AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF THE ANT*-INDUSTRIALIST THEME, SOME OBSERVERS SUSPECTED THAT THE CONSERVATIVE, AGRICULTURALLY BASED FUDI MIGHT BE INVOLVED. HOWEVER, ON JANUARY 11, PRESS CARRIED A REBUTTAL OF THE JIMINEZ THESIS BY JOSE L SALCEDO, THE INTELLECTUAL SIDEKICK OF FORMER FUDI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GENERAL MEDRANO, WHICH SEEMED TO UNDERCUT THAT THEORY.

3. THE DEBATE DID NOT STOP THERE, HOWEVER, JANUARY 12 PRESS CARRIED ANOTHER FULL PAGE AD ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY RETIRED LT COL MARIANO CASTRO MORAN IN WHICH HE QUESTIONS THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON NEOGTIATIONS, IMPLIES THAT SOME SORT OF SECRET DEAL ON TERRITORY HAD BEEN MADE BY BORGONOVO AND CALLS ON MOLINA TO EXPLAIN HIS POSITION. EVIDENTLY DECIDING THE ISSUE COULD NO LONGER BE IGNORED, JANUARY 14 PRESS CARRIES STATEMENT SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE SALVADORAN NEGOTIATING TEAM DENYING THAT THEY HAD EVER RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO CEDE ANY NATIONAL TERRITORY NOR HAD THEY EVER DISCUSSED THE MATTER AT THE MEXICO TALKS. DELEGATIONS ALSO DENIES THAT DENUNCIATION OF PACT OF BOGOTA HAD REFLECTED BADLY ON EL SALVADOR AND CONTENTS THAT ONLY ANTI-SALVADORAN ELEMENTS IN HONDURAS CRITICIZED THE MOVE. DELEGATION ALSO DENIES THAT ANY "SPECIAL INTERESTS" WERE REPRESENTED ON THE DELEGATION, I.E., THE INDUSTRIALISTS, TO WHOM JIMINIEZ REFERRED.

4. COMMENT: THUS FAR, WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF WHAT GROUP, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF ANY, WAS BEHIND THE JIMINEZ CASTILLO TIRADE. ALTHOUGH THE DEBAGE WILL PROBABLY SOON DIE DOWN, IT UNDERSCORES THE SENSITIVITY OF THE QUESTION OF BORDER DEMARCATION AND THE CARE WITH WHICH THE GOVERNMENT MUST TREAT IT.
MOSKOWITZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TREASON, MEETINGS, STATE LAND
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANSAA00166
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740143/aaaaboty.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONDURAS/SALVADOR: JIMINEZ CASTILLO ACCUSATIONS SPARK DEBATE
TAGS: PBOR, ES, HO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005